



# Annapolis

## City Hall Observer

SPECIAL REPORT ON  
PROPERTY TAX RATES  
JUNE 2003



### *A Word from Mayor Moyer...*

Dear Fellow Citizen,

Soon you will be receiving your annual Real Property Tax Bill from Anne Arundel County. As a resident of Annapolis, you pay taxes to three jurisdictions for various services you receive from each.

Each jurisdiction sets its own rate, based on assessments periodically determined by the State of Maryland. THIS YEAR, property in our area was reassessed, and the value of many Annapolis homes increased.

In addition to the increase in assessments, the State increased its tax rate 4.8 cents and the County increased its tax rate xxx cent. **We in the City LOWERED the rate 2.4 cents.**

In dollars, it means that for every \$100,000 of assessed value in your home, **you pay the City \$24 less** while paying an additional \$48 to the State and \$5 to the County.

Recognizing that increased property values may pose a tax burden on some residents on fixed and limited income, the City of Annapolis appointed the **Task Force on Local Tax Relief Policy** to explore and recommend policies for protecting residents.

Here is information on some recently enacted recommendations, as well as some of the already available relief programs that could substantially lower your tax burden.

#### **PROPERTY TAX RATES** (per \$100 of Assessed Value):

	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>
<b>City</b> .....	<b>\$0.624</b> .....	<b>\$0.600</b>
<b>County</b> .....	<b>\$0.550</b> .....	<b>\$0.555</b>
<b>State</b> .....	<b>\$0.084</b> .....	<b>\$0.132</b>
	<b>\$1.258</b> .....	<b>\$1.287</b>

### **TAX CREDIT PROGRAM** (State of Maryland)

for owners **AND** renters if the property taxes exceed a fixed percentage of the person's gross income.

*This offers credit against the property bill for homeowners, and a direct check from the state for certain renters.*

(See reverse side for Qualification Requirements.)

During their research, our Tax Relief Task Force determined there were many people eligible for these programs who did not take advantage simply because they did not know about them, or how to apply.

As Mayor, I am making a concerted effort to contact every property owner in Annapolis, via mail and the media, who might be eligible. We will make our staff professionals available to offer guidance on the process and ensure that anyone who qualifies for any of this tax relief is able to do so.

I hope you will call our Finance Department at (410) 263-7952 during regular working hours to help you find all of the tax relief you are entitled to.

Sincerely,

*Ellen*

Ellen Moyer



Office of the Mayor  
City of Annapolis  
160 Duke of Gloucester Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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## Renters may also qualify for tax credits!

### TO QUALIFY:

#### As a Homeowner:

You must own or have a legal interest in the property.

- The dwelling on which you are seeking the tax credit must be your principal residence where you live at least six months of the year, including July 1, unless you are a recent home purchaser or unless you are unable to do so because of your health or need of special care.
- Your net worth, not including the value of the property on which you are seeking the credit, must be less than \$200,000.

#### As a Renter:

For information on these credits, you may call the State Department of Assessments and Taxation at: 1-800-944-7403 or go to the SDAT website at [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us).

Once completed, applications should be mailed to:

State Department of Assessments & Taxation  
301 W. Preston Street, Room 900  
Baltimore, Md. 21201-2395  
Attn: Homeowners' Tax Credit Program  
or Renters' Tax Credit Program

Another Tax Relief option offered by the State, County and City is **TAX DEFERRAL**, which permits certain homeowners to defer paying the increases in their taxes.

#### City of Annapolis - Eligibility and Requirements

1. Has resided in the dwelling as a principal residence for at least five (5) consecutive years;
2. Is at least 65 years of age or has been found permanently and totally disabled and has qualified for benefits under Federal regulations.
3. Their combined gross income, as defined in § 9-104 of the Tax-Property Article of the State Code, does not exceed \$50,000 per annum.
4. The total amount of City property tax deferred plus 4% interest per annum shall be due and payable when the homeowner transfers the property or at the end of 50 years.
5. The election to defer taxes must be made before June 1 of a taxable year in order to receive deferral of the taxes for the succeeding taxable year.

Contact the City of Annapolis Finance Office at 410-263-7952 for further information.

#### Anne Arundel County - Eligibility and Requirements

1. Has resided in the dwelling as a principal residence for at least five (5) consecutive years;
2. Is at least 65 years of age or has been found permanently and totally disabled and has qualified for benefits under Federal regulations.
3. Their combined gross income, as defined in § 9-104 of the Tax-Property Article of the State Code, does not exceed \$30,000 per annum.
4. The total amount of City property tax deferred plus 6% interest per annum shall be due and payable when the homeowner transfers the property or at the end of 50 years.
5. The election to defer taxes must be made before June 1 of a taxable year in order to receive deferral of the taxes for the succeeding taxable year.

Contact the Anne Arundel County Tax Billing Office at 410-222-1144 for further information.